

SECRET & PERSONAL.

Telephone No.
 SECRETARY'S OFFICE
 ACCOUNTS - REGENT: 6050.
 51/32/Misc.(11)

BOX NO. 500,
 PARLIAMENT STREET, E.O.,
 LONDON, S.W.1.

12th October, 1943.

Dear John,

Thank you for bringing to my notice, in your letter JS/363 of the 7th October, the incident in which [] and Harvey were involved, which has caused you to wonder whether the arrangements which were made between you and me regarding functions and status are clearly understood. I have naturally gone into the matter rather carefully with [] since receiving your letter and I would like you to know at the outset, that he appears to me to have acted in perfect good faith throughout. When he enquired into the KOOT case on Harvey's invitation it was, in his view, soon confirmed that there were grounds for suspicion in the case which were of both S.O.E. and M.I.5. interest. I think you must really clear him of any intention to intrude unnecessarily into S.O.E. affairs.

But I gather that it is the procedural point which concerns you the most; that reference was made to Section V. by [] when you are anxious that all S.O.E. enquiries which require Section V. assistance should be made by S.O.E. direct to Section V. I would naturally never dream of challenging your right to insist on this procedure being adhered to. In connection with the present incident there are clearly two points which I ought to make on behalf of [] and this office. The first is that, if he is called in to an S.O.E. enquiry, he must be free to avail himself of all the aids which he thinks necessary. Indeed I regard it myself as a very considerable point that [] has access to special sources of intelligence and that thereby he can bring a more specialist knowledge to bear upon his problems than can, for example, an examiner at the L.R.O. Once therefore, he is involved in an S.O.E. case, you surely do not mean to say that he must not consult Section V. records or discuss the matter himself with a Section V. officer such as []. The second point is more specific. You say that when [] and Cyril Harvey were together, one of the girls in our B.I.A. Registry rang up a friend at Section V. asking if there were Section V. traces on one of the names that emerged. The friend in question was actually one of our own staff whom we employ for look-up purposes in a certain section of the S.I.S. Registry. This is a new arrangement between ourselves and Section V., about which I will tell you verbally when we meet. The point for the moment, is that in this instance the enquiries did not in fact go from an M.I.5. girl to a Section V. girl but remained within the orbit of M.I.5. personnel.

As regards your other procedural point, you have I understand already drawn []'s attention to his mistake and he has replied to you, explaining how it arose. Here therefore, I will only add that [] has, I am satisfied, no pretensions to become the sole liaison channel between M.I.5. and S.O.E. To my mind he is a person of sufficient discretion and understanding in intelligence matters to be left on a fairly loose rein. Please

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do not think me indifferent to sound procedure and established methods of exchange if I say that, for my part, I would like not to have to impose too bureaucratic an approach to his work upon him. There seem to me to be many ways in which, by reason of the privileged position which he occupies in our two organisations, he can be a most valuable cementing link. Indeed, I specially chose him for the job when necessity for it became realised by us both, because I knew him to be a discreet and tactful person, who would not be likely to abuse the rather special position he had to occupy. If there is any danger that things are going really wrong I should like to meet and discuss the whole position with you.

Yours sincerely,

D. G. White.

Lt. Commander J. Senter, R.N.V.R.,
S. O. E.

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